

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Explanation, it would almost be tempting to vote on this to suspend the rules on 159 in its present form, because I think 159 in its present form is still a good bill. This was a bill that was passed two years ago, as you may recall, with 33 votes and was vetoed, and this is a bill that has been advanced on General File I think with, I forget the number of votes, but as I recall the vote earlier, there were a lot of votes on it. When Senator Ashford and I talked about this noon, one of the thoughts I had was, hey, don't just pass over this bill gracefully, I mean, make senators vote on the bill, and if there are some senators who change their votes, they ought to be called into question and ought to be asked to explain why they would change their vote on this bill because we think the real lack of support for this bill that apparently exists is not a result of the merits of the bill but more of a result of lobbying that has gone on. That could have been done and we could have tried to force everyone or I would have tried to force everyone to vote on the bill, but thought rather than do that and rather than have the bill go down in flames or try to chastise senators who may switch their vote or who have never been consistent on this bill, we thought, well, why not take a situation where the bill is not going to advance, but is in a position to be used as a vehicle for other good legislation, why not use it as a vehicle for this particular bill? We considered many other bills possible. My apologies for not addressing this issue earlier and doing it with a little more notice. I think the lack of notice caused a lot of uncertainty and a lot of apprehension and distrust. I tried to be as forward and direct as possible. I did contact the sponsors of the bill. I thank Senator Ashford and Senator Conway for allowing it to be considered in this method. I also thank Senator Kristensen for his at least withdrawing the amendments, he was going to do it anyway. I appreciate that maybe he thought this was an inappropriate way to do it but that is his perfect right to vote that way, and as it is all of your perfect right to vote not to suspend the rules. That is your legitimate option. But anyway, I wanted to have the chance, I think this athlete agents bill would have been an excellent bill. I don't know if we can amend it, if there are any bills that are germane that may be advanced and be used as a vehicle to which we could attach this bill. I may try it again. In the interim, I would hope that you review the consideration of the bill because it is a good bill, and would have been worthy of passage and enactment, and I think